

## HELLO AGAIN

VOL. 41 No. 1

JAN – FEB, 2010

### A PERSONAL NOTE:

If anyone wants information in HA, please e-mail me the exact wording if you can. I can then paste it right in the newsletter. Of course I will accept information in regular mail from everyone else. I am now on Facebook. The Friends of Old-time Radio Convention is also on Facebook and is run by Sean Dougherty. If all is well, Karen and I will be seeing Betty and Chuck McCann in February when Chuck and Tim Conway do their traveling show in Sarasota, FL. **Brian Gari** was in a car accident but is recovering.

**THIRD REVISED ULTIMATE HISTORY:** Just a reminder that this book was originally written in 1992 and is the first and original book listing Network radio programming and the shows that are in circulation.

The fourth Supplement to the third edition (largest yet) is off the press. Cost is 10.00 plus \$1.50 P & H.

The 2005 “3rd Revised Ultimate History” is \$67 including P&H. which includes the First, Second, Third and Fourth Supplement. If you bought any of my earlier editions, the cost is \$57 including P&H. Please send new information when you can for the next update. I will need the information by October 1, 2010.

**CONVENTION 2010:** This is our 35th convention. Dates are Oct 21 – 24, 2010 at the Ramada Plaza (formerly Holiday Inn; same hotel) Newark, NJ. Our web site will keep you up to date. Note web site: <<http://www.fotr.net>>.

**CONVENTION 2009:** 2009 Convention booklets are available for \$2.50 including P&H. There are guests bios and pictures.

All of the sessions were video recorded by Satellite Media Production. You may order them as a complete set or by individual sessions. Please contact Fred Berney at Satellite Media Productions, P.O. Box 638, Walkersville, MD 21793-0638. Phone 800-747-0856. E-mail: [fsberney@verizon.net](mailto:fsberney@verizon.net).

Four years ago, Ellen and Fred Berney prepared 2 DVD's of the past 30 conventions. Cost is \$20 plus \$5.00 P&H. Send to Satellite Media Productions.

**PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:** A complete list of publications mentioned with addresses, contact people, etc. is one of the introductory pages in my current Ultimate History. It is also part of a small package mailed with your first Hello Again. If you don't have one, e-mail me for it and I will e-mail it to you. If you don't have e-mail, please send me a SASE for it; -**RCA Newsletter**, Nov; article about Pat Buttram; -**Old Radio Times** ([www.otrr.org](http://www.otrr.org)); Nov - Dec; articles about William Gillette and the voice of Sherlock Holmes; sponsors; Easy Aces; Bob Hope; Grovers Mill; -**Radio Recall**, Dec; articles about Tonto's Birthday; Capt. Midnight; War of the Worlds second Broadcast; -**The Illustrated Press**, Dec; article about Mike Axford and Warner Lester; Jan; articles about FM&M; Dinah Shore; Guy Lombardo; -**RLL on the Air**, Winter; article about ILAM by Martin Grams, Jr.; -**Nostalgia Digest**, Jan – Mar; articles about Nero Wolfe; Space Age Popular Music; June Foray; -Grace Wilson (National Barn Dance); -The Green Hornet; -**Old Time Radio Digest**, Winter; articles about radio in 1934; Amos 'n Andy; Radio advertising and Controversy; -**The Jack Benny Times**, Jan – Apr; many articles about Jack Benny

**BOOKS:** (Most books can also be purchased at <[www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/books/](http://www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/books/)>, <[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)> or <[Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com)>). **Greenwood Publishing Group** (Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881) has published many bio-bibliographies in the performing arts. James Robert Parish is the series editor. Over 80 have been published. For a list or to order call 1-800-225-5800 or 1-203-226-3571;-

Many books are from **McFarland** ; 1-800-253-2187; Web ([www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com)) and **Bear Manor Media**, Box 71426, Albany, GA 31708; 229-436-4265; <[Bearmanormedia.com](mailto:Bearmanormedia.com)> **Book Hunter Press**, Box 193, Yorktown Hts., NY 10598 ([www.bookhunterpress.com/radio](http://www.bookhunterpress.com/radio));-**Martin Grams (OTR Publishing)**, Box 252, Churchville, MD. 21028; (717) 456-6208 <[www.martingrams.com](http://www.martingrams.com)>;-**Scarecrow Press**; <[scarecrowpress.com](http://scarecrowpress.com)> 1-800-462-6420.

### **From McFarland**

### **Horror Stars on Radio; *The Broadcast Histories of 29 Chilling Hollywood***

*Voices* by Ronald L. Smith; ISBN 978-0-7864-4525-7; 88 photos, bibliography, index; 260pp. softcover (7 x 10) 2010; Price: \$45.00

#### **Description**

This book chronicles the radio appearances of all prominent classic horror movie stars—Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi, Peter Lorre, Vincent Price, and two dozen more, including “scream queens” like Fay Wray. It contains script excerpts from radio shows as well as material from narrated albums and music singles. Each star's appearances are listed by show and air date, with descriptions of the subject matter.

#### **CONVENTIONS: (Let me know details of your upcoming convention)**

**Cincinnati's 24th Old Time Radio and Nostalgia Convention**, May 7 – 8, 2010; Atrium Hotel; Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042 (888-477-9112) <[haradio@hotmail.com](mailto:haradio@hotmail.com)>

**5th Annual Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention**, Sep 23 – 25, 2010. Hunt Valley Marriott, Hunt Valley, MD; Old-Time Radio, movie and TV events and guests. Contact Martin or Michelle Grams, Jr at 443-286-6821, or <<http://www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com>>

**35th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention**, Oct 21 – 24, 2010 at the **Ramada Plaza Conference Center (formerly Holiday Inn)**, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, 27436 Desert Rose Ct, Leesburg, FL 34748 (352) 728-6731 <[JayHick@aol.com](mailto:JayHick@aol.com)> or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

**RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL:** **Radio Once More** is an internet OTR show on 24 hours a day broadcasting vintage radio. On Mon, Wed, Fri and Sun there is a live talk show with special OTR guests. Mon, Wed and Fri the talk show is 9 pm – 12 am. On Sunday it is 6 pm to 9 pm. It is hosted by Neal Ellis and Ken Stockinger. Hear them at <[www.radiooncemore.com](http://www.radiooncemore.com)>. Also more information at that web site.

**THE INTERNET:** Many of my subscribers are on the Internet. If you want to get on the mailing list for the Old Time Radio Digest (Round table) on the Internet, e-mail to this address: <[old.time.radio-request@oldradio.net](mailto:old.time.radio-request@oldradio.net)>...**Let me know if any are out of date.**

**WEB SITES:** Various OTR Web sites will be posted. Most begin with <[www](http://www)>. Let me know what yours is: **Lou Genco** (many collectors have their sites here including Vintage Broadcasts; Ted Davenport; Ed Carr; Fred Berney; Pat McCoy) <[old-time.com](http://old-time.com)> **Jim Widner** <[otr.com](http://otr.com)> (**Radio Days**);- **Chuck Schaden** <[nostalgia Digest.com](http://nostalgia Digest.com)> **BRC (Bob Burnham)** <[brcradio.com](http://brcradio.com)> **Ted Kneebone** <[geocities.com/tkneebone1](http://geocities.com/tkneebone1)> **Jerry Haendiges** <[otrsite.com/radiolog/index.html](http://otrsite.com/radiolog/index.html)> **Australian Film and Sound** <[Screensound.gov.au](http://Screensound.gov.au)> **OTR Digest** <[www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/books/](http://www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/books/)> **Jack Benny Fan Club** <[Jackbenny.org](http://Jackbenny.org)> **Radio Broadcast Chronicles** <[gna.net/tia](http://gna.net/tia)> **Tom Heathwood** <[HeritageRadio.com](http://HeritageRadio.com)>. **First Generation Archives** <[radioarchives.org](http://radioarchives.org)> (Free subscription) <<http://www.radioarchives.org/newsletter.asp>> **Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound** <[repsonline.org](http://repsonline.org)> **Terry Salomonson** <[audio-classic.com](http://audio-classic.com)> <[digitalotr.com](http://digitalotr.com)> The **OTR Club** now has a web page at <<http://www2.pcom.net/robmcd/otrbuffalo/>> **Doug Kosmonek** <<http://members.shaw.ca/dougosmonek>> new e-mail is <[dougosmonek@shaw.ca](mailto:dougosmonek@shaw.ca)> **Radio Spirits** <[radiospirits.com](http://radiospirits.com)> **The MWOTRC** web site is now operational and can be accessed either by [www.mwotrc.com](http://www.mwotrc.com) or [www.readiorecall.com](http://www.readiorecall.com) **Radio Memories (NEW)** [www.radiomemories.com](http://www.radiomemories.com)...**Ivan G. Shreve, Jr. (Thrilling Days of Yesteryear)** <<http://blogs.salon.com/0003139/>> **Bear Manor Media**, a publishing company (run by Ben Ohmart. Send for their catalog...They have published many OTR books in the last few years.

<<http://www.bearmanormedia.com>> **RHAC** web site is <[www.rhac.org](http://www.rhac.org)> **Radio Days** is celebrating its 10th year on the web at <<http://www.otr.com>> **Ron Sayles (births, deaths)** <http://mywebpage.netscape.com/bogusotr/instant/taz.html>. (also) <http://otrbirths.blogspot.com/>; **Eddie Cantor** <[eddiecantor.com](http://eddiecantor.com)>; **Old time Radio Researchers Group** <http://www.otrr.org>; For free downloads of old time radio programs, check out the **OTRRLibrary** <http://www.otrrlibrary.org>; For the most up-to-date information about old time radio series, and their stars, check out **OTRRPedia** located at <http://www.otrrpedia.org>

**CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS (All addresses first):** **McCoy's Recording** (Pat McCoy), Box 1069, Richland, WA 99352 (509) 627-4039; <[www.old-time.com/mccoy.html](http://www.old-time.com/mccoy.html)> **Jerry Haendiges**, 13808 Sunset Dr., Whittier, CA 90602 <[JHaendiges@aol.com](mailto:JHaendiges@aol.com)> **Radio Memories (Ted Davenport)**, Box 94548, North Little Rock, AR 72190 (888) 357-2346 <[tedotr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tedotr@sbcglobal.net)> **Vintage Broadcasts** (Andy Blatt), Box 3257, Milford, CT 06460 (203-783-1923); also 1-866-783-1923; <[asajb2000@yahoo.com](mailto:asajb2000@yahoo.com)>; **Great American Radio (GAR)** (Gary Kramer), Box 401, Clio, MI 48420 <[ga@radio.fm](mailto:ga@radio.fm)>; **Bequaert Old Books**, Box 775, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447 (603) 585-3448 <[www.beqbooks.com](http://www.beqbooks.com)>; send 2 34-cents stamps for a catalog of books and magazines on OTR **AVPRO** (Don Aston), Box 1392, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531 (1-888-3328776) **Redmond Nostalgia Co.** (David Kiner), Box 82, Redmond, WA 98073 **SPERDVAC Library** (Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266) **John Barber**, Box 72273., New Orleans, LA 70112 (504) 586-1931 <[jbarber@gno.lib.la.us](mailto:jbarber@gno.lib.la.us)>. **Vintage Audio** (Tom Martin), 461 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (518) 584-1112 <[Thomasmartin245@aol.com](mailto:Thomasmartin245@aol.com)> **Satellite Video Production (Fred Berney)** Box 638, Walkersville, MD 21793 (1-800-747-0856) <[Berney@fred.net](mailto:Berney@fred.net)> **BRC Productions** (Bob Burnham), Box 158, Dearborn, MI 48127 <[bob@brcbroadcast.com](mailto:bob@brcbroadcast.com)> <[www.brcradio.com](http://www.brcradio.com)> **Hello Again Radio** (Bob Burchett), 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042 **Audio Classics Archive (Terry Salomonson)**, Box 347, Howell, MI 48844; 1-877-653-8963 (for orders only) <[audio-classic.com](http://audio-classic.com)> **Lodestone** (Richard Fish), 611 Empire Mill Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401; 1-800-411-6463 <[lodestone-media.com](http://lodestone-media.com)> (Deals in New Audio Theater **Ed Carr**, 216 Shaner St., Boyertown, PA 19512 <[edcarr@enter.net](mailto:edcarr@enter.net)> **Dan Riedstra**, 2830 North Rockwell St., Chicago, IL 60618 <[daniel.riedstra@wcom.com](mailto:daniel.riedstra@wcom.com)>. **Max Schmid**, Box 3449, Astoria, NY 11103 <[mschmid@rcn.com](mailto:mschmid@rcn.com)> <[www.oldtimeradio.com](http://www.oldtimeradio.com)> **Henry Hinkel**, 254 Florida Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010 <[www.crabapplesound.com](http://www.crabapplesound.com)> **Danean MacAndrew**, P. O. Box 793, Lake Forest, CA, 92609 <[www.theradiolady.com](http://www.theradiolady.com)> **Heritage Radio Classics**; Tom Heathwood, Box 16, Boston, MA 02467 <[www.heritageradio.com](http://www.heritageradio.com)> Listen to the Heritage Radio Theatre every Sunday for one week streaming audio: <[www.vintageRadioPlace.com/broadcast](http://www.vintageRadioPlace.com/broadcast)>  
**All listings below list sampling of shows. BRC Productions; 2010 winter; Mercury Summer theater; FM&M; DVD videos; much else.**

**NEW FRIENDS:** **Karl Amundsen**, 113 Hillcrest Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308

**IN FOND MEMORY:** **Al Alberts**, Nov 27, 87; Singer with the 4 Aces; (Horn and Hardart Children's Hour); **Richard Todd**, Dec 3, 90; actor (Hallmark Playhouse); **Gene Barry**, Dec. 9, 90; actor (Lux Radio Theater); **Oral Roberts**, Dec 15, 91; evangelist (Healing waters); **Jennifer Jones**, Dec 17, 90; actress (Lux, Radio Hall of Fame); **Yvonne King**, Dec 13, 89; singer; one of King Sisters (Kay Kyser, Screen Guild Theater); **Arnold Stang**, Dec 20, 91; actor (Let's Pretend; Henry Morgan; The Goldbergs); attended FOTR convention; **Jean Carroll**, Jan 1, 98; comedienne, writer (Our Gal Sunday, Young Widder Brown)

**Hello Again** is \$15 a year and is published 6 times a year. The first issue appeared in April of 1970

Write if you get work; and hang by your thumbs

**Jay Hickerson, 27436 Desert Rose Ct., Leesburg, FL 34748;**  
**Phone: 352-728-6731; FAX: 352-728-2405**  
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# MOMENTS

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## LOVE STORY

# 63 Years Later, He Proposes Again

By M.A.C. LYNCH  
Special to The Courant

**O**n their 63rd wedding anniversary, George Ansbro, 94, put a question before his wife, Jo-Anne.

"If we weren't already married, would you still marry me now?"

It was a bittersweet moment for Jo-Anne. Jo-Anne Chantal was an independent-minded, 17-year-old when George met her.

"I did not want to go to college," Jo-Anne says. "I wanted to work. I liked the area of Rockefeller Center" and applied for jobs in the area.

She was hired in 1944 as a mail girl at ABC. "I delivered the mail because there were no more mail boys."

A co-worker who was dating George introduced Jo-Anne to him at the elevator. They all ate lunch together, and George asked Jo-Anne out that night after work. George knew that evening that his romance with Jo-Anne's co-worker was over.

"We went out a lot after that, on again, off again. . . . My parents weren't too happy about it," Jo-Anne says. She was 17 to George's 29.

George, who had been hired as a page boy and won an audition to become a radio announcer, was covering the Big Band shows on live radio broadcasts.

"That job at that time was really glamorous. Sometimes I would go with him. Nobody asked you how old you were," Jo-Anne says.

George's friends and family also were concerned with his dating such a young woman, but he persisted for two years.

In January 1946, after dinner at Jo-Anne's parents' apartment to meet her grandmother, George became ill. Jo-Anne's mother called the doctor downstairs to check George, who was diagnosed with strep throat.

"Strep throat was very serious in our days," Jo-Anne says. George stayed in their apartment for three weeks.

"My mother took care of him. I went out on dates," Jo-Anne says.

After George recovered, he gave Jo-Anne an ultimatum: "We either get engaged or break this off."

"I really liked him. I just wasn't sure I should get married at that age. . . . I decided to go for it," Jo-Anne says.

They wed at St. Patrick's Cathedral and had their reception at the Waldorf-Astoria. George arranged for a quartet he knew to provide the dance music. After the reception, the legendary Hurley's Bar closed its doors and served the wedding party until 3 a.m.

The couple lived in New York until the mid-'50s, until they moved with two children



**JO-ANNE** and George Ansbro enjoy their wedding day 63 years ago. The ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York was followed by a reception at the Waldorf-Astoria.

to New Canaan, where they had three more children. Working erratic night hours, George tired of commuting, and in the '60s they moved to Montclair, N.J. Jo-Anne raised the kids, and when George had time off they would take their children to his family's summer house in Spring Lake, N.J., or to Jo-Anne's family's camp in Maine, where they had no running water, no electricity and used an outhouse.

Jo-Anne and George moved back to Greenwich Village when the kids were grown. George did some television announcing but preferred radio, and at age 75, after 59 years with ABC, he retired. He wrote — in pencil — a book about his broadcast years, "I Have a Lady in the Balcony: Memoirs of a Broadcaster in Radio and Television," which was published in 2000 by McFarland. The following year, the couple moved to Duncaster Continuing Care Retirement Community in Bloomfield.

"About four years ago, George was diagnosed with dementia. He was with me a couple of years," Jo-Anne says, but in 2007 he moved to the nursing home, where she visits him daily. He manifests "unabashed joy at seeing me. . . . 'Oh, Jo-Anne, I'm so glad to see you. This is my bride Jo-Anne,'" he tells everyone.

"Last June, he was more excited than usual" as he handed Jo-Anne a note. He called her that night, worried about her losing the note. She assured him she had it.

"The next day I went over and he told me where to sit. He got real close to me and said, 'Will you please marry me?' I almost fell on

the floor. It was a bittersweet experience. I didn't know what to do," Jo-Anne says.

In the note, George had written about proposing to Nana, as Jo-Anne is known to her grandchildren. Over the next few days he discussed all his plans for their wedding in the chapel at St. Patrick's Cathedral, with a reception at the Waldorf-Astoria and a quartet of musicians he knew.

"I didn't know what to do, because he was so happy," Jo-Anne says.

"Two weeks later was our 63rd wedding anniversary," Jo-Anne says. "I was having dinner with him. I asked him, 'Do you remember proposing to me?'" George did not recall writing the note or his recent plans for their wedding.

Later in the evening George said, "Well, if we weren't already married, would you still marry me now?"

They both cried, Jo-Anne says.

George will turn 95 in 11 days, and "he looks fabulous," Jo-Anne says. Their marriage thrived on their "being very honest with one another and loving each other. If you had an argument in those days, you didn't walk out."

After more than six decades by his side, Joanne answered George's proposal.

"Yes, of course."

>> We'd love to hear your love story. Please send your name, e-mail or phone number to Carl Dobler at [dobler@courant.com](mailto:dobler@courant.com), or by mail to The Hartford Courant, Features Dept., 285 Broad St., Hartford, CT 06115.